

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the Application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a pneumatic tire, ~~comprising the steps of:~~ comprising:

_____ ~~supporting~~ supporting both bead portions of a green tire by a pair of holders to which opposite axial ends of a bladder are tightly ~~attached, respectively,~~ attached separately from the vulcanizer;

_____ ~~joining~~ joining the holders to each other and supplying a ~~fluid~~ liquid into the bladder to preliminarily inflate the bladder within the green ~~tire, and~~ tire;

_____ ~~transferring~~ transferring the green tire into a vulcanizer, together with the holders and the preliminarily inflated bladder, and then supplying a heat medium into the bladder to thereby vulcanize the green tire and form a vulcanized ~~tire.~~ tire;

_____ transferring the vulcanized tire, together with the holders and the bladder, from the vulcanizer to a post-cure inflator, and attaching said holders to a rotary shaft of said post-cure inflator;

_____ rotating the rotary shaft of the post-cure inflator to thereby cool the vulcanized tire; and

_____ accelerating cooling of the vulcanized tire, by supplying a low-temperature liquid into the bladder.

2. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the ~~fluid~~ liquid to be supplied into the bladder for its preliminary inflation is a high-temperature ~~fluid.~~ liquid for preheating the green tire prior to transfer into the vulcanizer.

3.-4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for producing a pneumatic tire, comprising:

_____ ~~a~~ a preprocessing machine comprised of (i) joining means for mutually joining a pair of holders supporting both bead portions of a green tire, respectively, and (ii) preliminary inflating means for supplying a ~~fluid~~ liquid into a bladder having opposite axial ends tightly attached to the holders, respectively, to ~~thereby~~ preliminarily inflate the bladder within the green tire;

_____ ~~a~~ a vulcanizer for supplying a heat medium into the bladder within the green tire, to thereby vulcanize the green tire and form a vulcanized tire; ~~and~~

_____ ~~transfer~~ transfer means for transferring the green tire together with said holders and the preliminarily inflated bladder, from the preprocessing machine to the ~~vulcanizer~~.

vulcanizer;

_____ means for circulating the liquid through the bladder; and

_____ means for heating and/or cooling the liquid as the liquid is circulated through the bladder.

6. (New) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the means for heating and/or cooling is a heater.

7. (New) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the means for heating and/or cooling is a heat exchanger.

8. (New) An apparatus for producing a pneumatic tire, comprising:

a preprocessing machine comprised of (i) joining means for mutually joining a pair of holders supporting both bead portions of a green tire, respectively, and (ii) preliminary inflating means for supplying a liquid into a bladder having opposite axial ends tightly attached to the holders, respectively, to preliminarily inflate the bladder within the green tire;

a vulcanizer that supplies a heat medium into the bladder within the green tire, to thereby vulcanize the green tire and form a vulcanized tire;

a first transfer device that transfers the green tire together with said holders and the preliminarily inflated bladder, from the preprocessing machine to the vulcanizer;

a second transfer device that transfers the vulcanized tire, together with said holders and the bladder, from the vulcanizer to a post-cure inflator, and attaching said holders to a rotary shaft of said post-cure inflator;

a rotator that rotates the rotary shaft of the post-cure inflator to thereby cool the vulcanized tire; and

a cooling acceleration system that accelerates cooling of the vulcanized tire by supplying a low-temperature liquid to the bladder.